Retractability does not confer any specific virtue or immunity against disease.

Circumcision is perhaps the most beneficent single measure ever devised for sanitary purposes in human beings.

It is not a 'barbarous and unnecessary mutilation.'

It is the paramount agency in genital cleanliness and hygiene.

It is decidedly prophylactic against infection with venereal ulcers.

It diminishes local complications in the presence of venereal disease.

It makes balanitis impossible, and thereby impedes the development of venereal warts, herpes progenitalis and epithelioma.

It diminishes the tendency to masturbation, convulsions and other reflex phenomena of local irritation.

It eliminates erosive and gangrenous balanitis—the 'fourth venereal disease,' so-called.

It abolishes phimosis and paraphimosis with their attendant complications and dangers.

It renders venereal ulcers immediately visible, and therefore encourages early therapeutic measures; as a corollary, it prevents the spread of venereal disease thru female contact with concealed and unrecognized lesions within the preputial cavity.

And, lastly, I believe it is the moral duty of physicians and hygienists as an earnest and sincere contribution to the hygienic development of the race, in general, and to the suppression of venereal disease and cancer in particular, to encourage the practice of circumcision in all male infants, whether the foreskin is retractable or not.

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792 Lexington Avenue.

The 'Fairy' and the Lady Lover

PERRY M. LICHTENSTEIN, M.D., LL.B.,
Physician to City Prison, Tombs, Physician to House of Detention, etc.
NEW YORK

Does the 'fairy' or 'fag' really exist? This question has been asked time and again. There is no doubt but that this type of denegerate is a reality. He is a freak of nature who in every way attempts to imitate woman. In my official capacity I have come in contact with several hundred of such individuals, and have in every instance felt sorry for the unfortunate being.

In practically every case I have found the man to be a young person of age ranging between sixteen and thirty. Such people as a rule give a history of

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aversion for women. They are by no means mental defectives. Most of them have had a good education and come from respectable families, of which sometimes more than one member are similarly affected. As a rule one obtains from each a history in which masturbation is prominent. Since early childhood they have been seclusive and kept close to their mother. They are emotional and affective. Altho not attracted to the opposite sex, they nevertheless imitate the female as closely as possible. They take feminine names, use perfume and dainty stationery which frequently is scented, and in many instances they wear women's apparel. Recently one of these individuals was arrested, charged with soliciting. When he arrived in the city prison he was searched, and on him were found a set of artificial busts, a wig and a box containing powder and rouge. This young man was twenty years of age. He was beardless, had an effeminate voice and a distinctly feminine walk. He lisped and in speech closely approached a bashful female. When interviewed his answers were usually prefixed by 'my dear.'

He stated that when a child he had been a good student, had graduated from public school and also from high school. He had never associated with girls while young, and he had spent his after-school hours playing with dolls. When he grew older he liked to associate with men and could never associate with women because he became confused in their presence. He ran away from home and met some boys whom he considered good company. These young men were of the same type as he. It was not long before he began pervert practices, and in this way made enough money to live.

These individuals indulge in every form of pervert act, and often occupy handsomely furnished apartments which are paid for by men who patronize them. As a rule several 'fags' occupy an apartment. On one occasion ten such individuals were arrested in a raid by the police. They were isolated in what is known as the 'Annex.' I had an opportunity to observe them closely. In every respect they resembled the female. The names they used in calling one another were feminine. One was known as FRITZI SHEFF, another as MARY GARDEN, a third as DOLORES, a fourth as AGNES. They had a typical feminine walk. One of these prisoners was taken sick with indigestion, and when I questioned him as to the cause of his ailment, one of the others suggested that he was probably having his period. They all wore bow ties, some of which were brightly colored. They invited the keepers and myself to their 'rooms,' and were not at all insulted when one of the trustees called them 'fags.'

Many of these unfortunates are diseased and may readily infect others. One such case is worth mentioning. A soldier who had recently returned from France and had just been discharged visited one of the branches of the Y. M. C. A. and inquired if he could obtain a room for the night. He was told that there was no room. A young man happened to be near who overheard the conversation, and as the soldier turned to leave the building the young man accosted him, saying: 'I see that you are looking for a place for the night. I have a nice room which I occupy during the day. I work at night. If you care to, you may use my room tonight.' The soldier, thinking that the young man was interested in him because he was one of Uncle Sam's defenders, readily accepted.

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They went to the room, and after fixing the bed for the soldier his benefactor bade him good night and left. The soldier undressed and went to bed. He was awakened during the night by finding the other man committing sodomy upon him. The pervert was nude, but when detected had pulled the sheet off the bed so as to cover himself. The soldier snatched the sheet from the other's person and noticed that the fellow was covered with a rash. After punching the man from one end of the room to the other, he took him to the station and had him locked up. One can imagine the soldier's state of mind when he learned that his benefactor had syphilis. This serves to prove that the 'fairy' is just as great a menace as is the prostitute.

One finds many of these unfortunates among negroes. Several years ago a negro was shot and killed by a detective. This negro's practice was to dress up as a female, solicit men and then go thru their pockets while having intercourse in some hallway. He had in some way gotten possession of a rubber arrangement which in every way resembled the female external genitals. This contrivance was strapped about his waist, and he was thus able to deceive many men whom he solicited.

I can distinctly recall two cases which occurred quite recently that bear a resemblance to the instance just cited. The first case was a defendant who was arrested for soliciting and was sent to the female prison. This person had wonderful hair which reached to the waist, and it was not false. His face was as smooth as a woman's, his voice was distinctly feminine, and his hands and feet were small. He wore high heeled shoes. In examining this person the matron insisted that he strip. The prisoner refused, and thereupon I was notified to make an examination. I found that we were dealing with a male. The genitals were small and there was very little hair covering the pubis. When questioned he stated that he preferred to dress as a female, because he found that he was effeminately inclined. He confessed to practicing pervert acts upon men, and stated that he cared more for the male than for the female. I had him isolated, and he agreed to allow us to cut off his hair and dress him in men's clothes. He was sent to the workhouse, and after serving his time was released. Several months later I learned that he had again been arrested for a similar offense. This time he wore a wig in addition to the feminine garb.

The next case was somewhat similar. The defendant was arrested for keeping a disorderly house. When taken to the female prison he refused to allow the matron to search him so, as in the previous case, I was called in. I found that the prisoner wore a wig and artificial breasts. Every bit of his attire was feminine. The genitals were small and there was a scarcity of pubic hair. The voice and mannerisms were distinctly effeminate.

At this point it is advisable to mention the fact that many of the so-called 'social élite' are to be included among these people.

It is not necessary for a man to solicit other men in order to belong to this class of pervert. All men who are homosexually inclined are to be placed in the same genus with the individuals already described. Certain persons of this type will have nothing to do with women sexually. In fact, they will urge women to be virtuous and will even commit a crime to protect them, as was seen in a

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certain celebrated case. These same men, however, think nothing of having immoral relations with other men or of tying a young man to the bed, after he has been stripped, and whipping him until the blood flows. The pervert thus obtains his satisfaction.

Before leaving this part of the discussion, let me introduce a letter written by one 'fag' to another:

'My dear loving Princess:

'Well, well, dear sister, how are you these wonderful days; trusting that you are well, as it sure leaves me the same.

RUTH ST. DENIS is once again a woman of liberty, brilliant, brazing and dashing as ever. Once more, I must say, I am human, after spending five long months on the Island of Sorrow. Now, Princess, tomorrow I shall look for work; well, anyway, I'll get work Monday. I'll send you a few pennies, so you can buy a few eats, while you are in The Tombs, as soon as I am paid. After you come out, I do want you and I to be more friendly, that is to room together, as I told you before. You can live here with me. I have my same old room back again, and I just got thru decorating it, and putting everything in place, and in order. It is a large room, with electric light, heat, hot and cold water, right in reach. We, I am sure, can be very happy together, working in our jobs, and after we get thru, we stroll in the evening, but you must leave off sniffing that dangerous stuff, for instance, look at poor DODO REGAY and a lot of others. How terrible I felt when I saw FLORA, with a black eye. You must cheer her up, PRINCESS. I am putting her clothing in condition, and everything else in order, everything with moth balls. I shall help her very much, and when you come out, the both of us can do a lot more for her. I just wrote her brother a long letter. When you write tell me what the fags in the laundry said as I passed. They all came to the windows. Well, they had nothing to say. I got home a mess, all wet, and really looked terrible.

I suppose there have been new arrivals at the convent. We certainly are having such glorious weather.

Remember me to Miss DERKINS, FLORA and Miss WILLIAMS

Wishing you health and success,
with love, I am,
Your friend,
RUTH.
(true name signed here)

This letter was written on blue paper and in a distinctly feminine hand. The writer was a man, and all those referred to in the letter were men.

We now come to that class of female who abhors the company of man and gains sexual satisfaction from association with other females. This is a common occurrence among prisoners where women are 'doing time.' Both white and colored women indulge in the practice. It is also quite common among actresses, more particularly of the chorus girl type. Some such individuals show distinct male characteristics. They wear strictly tailor-made clothing, low shoes and they seldom wear corsets. The hair is usually bobbed. This is not, however, the rule; for many retain their feminine characteristics. A physical examination of such people will in practically every instance disclose an abnormally prominent clitoris. This is particularly so in colored women. It is not at all uncommon for such individuals to become lovers and to call one another husband and wife. One often reads in the paper that a person who was to all appearances a man had died; but post-mortem examination

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had disclosed that the man was in reality a woman. Then the startling announcement is made that the woman had been married and that she has left a 'widow.' It is nothing very strange—just another case of 'lady lovers.'

How do these people gain sexual satisfaction? By friction of the clitoris. The following case will illustrate: I had occasion to make a mental and physical examination of a young woman in whose case the Court of General Sessions had appointed a lunacy commission. She was found sane. She stated that she had indulged in the practice of 'bull diking,' as she termed it. She was a prisoner in one of the reformatories, and there a certain young woman fell in love with her. This second young woman was a waitress. One morning while the young woman to whom I was talking was in bed the other young woman entered and sat down on the bed. She put her arms around the defendant and squeezed and kissed her. She then jumped into the bed and lifting the other's clothes had intercourse with her by friction of the clitoris. After that morning the practice was continued with regularity. 'Lady lovers' are by no means rare. I might add that a good many cases of such practice are to be found among nurses as well as among actresses. Such women seldom marry. Because of their dislike for men they are, as a rule, looked upon by the community as virtuous.

In writing of these individuals KRAFFT-EBING has the following to say:

'They are neither man nor woman, a mixture of both, with secondary psychical and physical characteristics of the one as well as the other sex, which grow out of the interfering influence of a bisexual predisposition and disturb the development of a well defined and complete being.'

KRAFFT-EBING also mentions the fact that these persons in the majority of cases are tainted, hereditarily. With this latter statement I cannot agree. While it is true that in some instances I have found this to be so, nevertheless in the majority of my cases I have found it otherwise.

What is the solution of this problem? Like all other problems, we must eliminate the cause, if one can be found. One sometimes hears of a case where the parents were disappointed when a son was born to them. They had wanted a girl. They raise the child as a girl, seeking to develop girl-like traits in him. KRAFFT-EBING speaks of one such case. Such a procedure is of course contrary to nature.

Where there is an hereditary taint, very little can be done to correct the habits of the afflicted individual. Its only logical solution is to prevent such individuals from practicing pervert acts and thus becoming a menace to society. At present when such a person is arrested he receives a sentence of probably six months on The Island, and he is then allowed at large. Such a procedure is worthless as far as an ultimate solution is concerned. These individuals practice openly. Most of the arrests are of those of the type who frequent the toilets in the subways. Something must be done to eliminate pervert acts by these people. My advice is that they be sent to an institution and kept there for an indefinite period, at the end of which time they may be released on parole. What institution shall we send them to? Not an insane asylum and surely not a prison. Here again we must mention the 'intermediary institution.' It should be estab-

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lished to house both mental and moral defectives. Here treatment may be given to such people. Endocrine therapy, in my opinion, is worth while trying. It certainly suggests itself. Then again it may be possible to aid some individuals by trying to correct their habits.

How about the individual who is never apprehended and consequently does not go to prison? Here a great deal depends upon the parents. Where boys show a preference for adult males and show decided feminine traits, such as delight in crocheting, sewing, playing with dolls, it is the duty of the parent to correct them. When a child masturbates he should be soundly punished. When approaching puberty he should be carefully observed by the parent, and any effeminate traits as above outlined should immediately be corrected. If the child is not corrected and passes the stage of puberty, there is small hope for him. The parent should encourage him to seek the company of girls rather than that of male companions. Finally, let us punish most severely the man who yields to the advances of these individuals, for such as he are worse than the pervert and deserve no sympathy.

958 E. 156th St.

The Dangers of Radium and X-Rays

MALFORD W. THEWLIS, M.D.,
PARIS

The advances made in medicine by the use of radium and x-rays have not been without fatal consequences to some of those who worked with these agents. We must heed the dangers which are already known to exist; but as progress is made in the treatment of human ills by such radiations, investigations must be carried out to ascertain if further dangers are apt to manifest themselves.

The accidents caused by x-rays in the earlier days of their use are well known, and we frequently see doctors and manipulators suffering from incurable radiodermatitis as a result of their exposing themselves without protection before the modern methods of filtration were known. In many instances cases of sarcoma have even been engrafted upon these lesions. Not only were the manipulators affected, but the patients also were burned by long exposures to x-rays, without any filtration of the soft rays. As investigations were continued, filtration by means of various metals eliminated the harmful rays—the danger of radiodermatitis practically disappeared.

The modern x-ray apparatus affords comparative protection. It has lead-glass or lead-lined boxes, and by means of various instruments we are able to find out if the rays escape from their imprisonment. It remains to be seen if there are rays in the rooms where the doctors are operating, which rays when one is constantly exposed to them might have a harmful effect on the human system. There is practically no danger of radiodermatitis with the Coolidge tube, which permits short exposures. However, the physician who does radioscopic work is exposed to greater danger than is he who makes radiographs, so that, undoubtedly, radiotherapy with long exposures will cause accidents.

X-rays and radium must be treated as cautiously as poisonous medicaments.

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